

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA  
AT BLUEFIELD

C.L.,

Plaintiff,

v.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 1:19-00792

DAVID R. WILSON, FPC Alderson;  
et al.,

Defendants.

**MEMORANDUM OPINION AND ORDER**

Pending before the court are defendant Jerrod S. Grimes' ("Grimes") Plea in Abatement to the Summons, (ECF No. 9), plaintiff's motion to strike Grimes' motion, (ECF No. 17), Grimes' motion for show cause, (ECF No. 22), and defendant United States of America's motion to dismiss plaintiff's claim for attorney's fees asserted against the United States. (ECF No. 27.)

**A. Grimes' Plea in Abatement, Plaintiff's Motion to Strike, and Grimes' Motion for Show Cause**

In defendant Grimes' Plea in Abatement, he appears to argue that plaintiff does not have standing to sue him because he is insolvent and he is, somehow, a separate entity from the defendant Grimes being sued (i.e. himself). (See ECF No. 9.) Defendant Grimes is representing himself pro se. "A document filed *pro se* is 'to be liberally construed.'" Erickson v. Pardus, 551 U.S. 89, 94 (2007) (quoting Estelle v. Gamble, 429

U.S. 97, 106 (1976)). However, even liberally construing Grimes' filing, the court cannot find any legitimate legal ground to support his motion. If defendant Grimes wishes to file a motion to dismiss that makes a cognizable legal claim, he may do so. As for the instant motion, Grimes' motion, (ECF No. 9), is hereby **DENIED**, and plaintiff's motion to strike, (ECF No. 17), is **GRANTED**. Grimes' motion for show cause, (ECF No. 22), which seeks a court order requiring plaintiff to show why the plea in abatement should not be granted, is likewise **DENIED**.

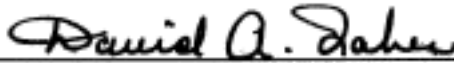
**B. United States' Motion to Dismiss**

Defendant United States asks the court to dismiss plaintiff's claim for attorney's fees against the United States because such claims are barred by the Federal Tort Claims Act ("FTCA"). (ECF No. 27.) Plaintiff does not oppose the United States' motion. (See ECF No. 30.) Therefore, the court **GRANTS** the United States' motion. See Joe v. United States, 772 F.2d 1535, 1536-37 (11th Cir. 1985) ("The doctrine of sovereign immunity bars an award of attorneys' fees against the United States unless there is express statutory authorization . . . The FTCA does not expressly provide for attorneys' fees against the United States.").

The Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this Memorandum Opinion and Order to counsel of record and any unrepresented parties.

**IT IS SO ORDERED** this 9th day of September, 2020.

ENTER:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David A. Faber", is written over a horizontal line.

David A. Faber

Senior United States District Judge